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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FROM American Embassy, Taipei

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

Taipei's Despatch No. 313, December 28, 1952
Comments on Political Conditions in Free China

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For Dept.	FE	I N F O		TS, A/CDC Office REASON(S)
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ne	JAN 19			DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
SUBJECT: Ideological Conflict Between Dr. HU Shih and General CHIANG Ching-kuo.			RELEASE DENIED	

A high official of the Chinese Government commented to the reporting officer on December 28, 1952, regarding the sharp ideological conflict apparent between Dr. HU Shih and General CHIANG Ching-kuo. The official referred to the "Year-End Message of the General Political Department" which was a front-page feature of the December 27 issue of the Chung Yang Jih Pao (chief Kuomintang organ). The Message, among other things, set forth the General's view that the independence of the State is more important than the freedom of the individual: "...we must also sacrifice our personal views and bring them into harmony with the will of the Leader. The Founding Father of this Republic, Dr. SUN Yat-sen, once appealed: 'Individual freedom should be broken in order to resist foreign oppression'." (Enclosure No. 1 is a full translation of the Message, the last two paragraphs of which are critical of Dr. Hu's attitudes.)

Unfortunately, subordination of the private citizen's interests to those of the State seems actually to mean to those of General Chiang Ching-kuo, which was quite another matter, he remarked.

Continuing, he said that he had no objection to much of the work of the Political Department -- such of its activities as were of a welfare, recreational and counterintelligence nature were necessary and desirable. What did perturb him however was the incursion of the Political Department into the general field of politics and into lines quite unconnected with its proper functions as a department of the Ministry of National Defense. In this regard, he stated that recent attacks on Dr. Hu in certain military journals, notably in the Ch'ing Nien Chan Shih (Young Soldier), although they reflected the General's views, probably were not authorized by him or by his main assistants. They were the result, he thought, of overzealousness on the part of subordinates and indicated that their actions were not well controlled. Such seeming irresponsibility he especially deplored, as the Young Soldier has a circulation of 100,000.

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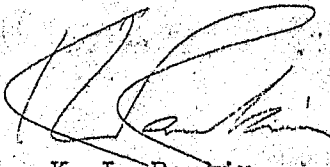
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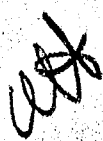
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(being distributed free by the Political Department to the armed forces) which exceeded the aggregate circulation of the island's 22 newspapers. He noted also that the Young Soldier was a potent political weapon in the hands of the General and his supporters.

While Dr. Hu has made certain concessions to the feelings of Government and Kuomintang leaders in his public statements, he has none-the-less been quite frank and has stressed such themes as (1) freedom must be "fought for"; (2) the Legislative Yuan's criticism and opposition to the executive branch of the Government is entirely desirable and constitutional; and (3) Free China's fate is inseparable from that of the Free World. Dr. Hu's private and public statements, which reflect his determination to speak the truth as he sees it, have been of inestimable value here, the official said.

Copies of this despatch pouched to Hong Kong and Tokyo.


K. L. Rankin

Enclosure: 

1. Translation of Year-End Message of General Political Department.

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The Year-End Message
of the
General Political Department

As the various departments and agencies of the Government and the various units of the Armed Forces will be reviewing their accomplishments at the year's end, the General Political Department released the following message, which lays down guiding principles on reviewing past progress:

"Progress this year is greater than that of last year, but this progress has been hard-earned. The speed of our work never seems to be able to catch up with fleeting time. Furthermore, the road we are building now is full of precipices. We must make greater sacrifices and fight against every minute, every second. Only in this way can we expect to move closer and closer to the milestone which marks the recovery of the mainland. Only by our constant progress can we hope it to bear the fruit of victory.

"The year 1953 will not be an ordinary year. The enemy will not give us any more time to seek progress in peace. All indications point to the approach of the fateful contest. Prior to that contest we must make a thorough review of our work. As each will have his own emphasis, the political workers will lay their emphasis upon the thinking and spirit of the members of the armed forces in the review.

"When the political workers met at Taipei in November, the President demanded that we develop the armed forces into a well-indoctrinated, high-spirited and well organized combat body so that each man may display a strength equivalent to that of ten. By a resolution at that meeting the political worker recognized that 'as the final contest is drawing nearer and nearer, our faith in our Leader and the Three People's Principles will be more and more steadfast in order to insure the purity of our thought and the growth of our fighting spirit'. The history of over sixty years of the Nationalist revolution has unmistakably borne out the fact that 'whether be it a revolution or a war; whenever we hold fast our faith in our Leader we win, and whenever we let waver our faith in our Leader we lose'.

"On top of that, we must also sacrifice our personal views and bring them into harmony with the will of the Leader. The Founding Father of this Republic, Dr. SUN Yat-sen, once appealed: 'Individual freedom should be broken in order to resist foreign oppression...The Chinese people have long enjoyed a large measure of freedom, and do not have to fight for it.' Dear to our hearts we should hold these words. Yet we have failed. The Communists took advantage of ideological freedom, caused great confusion and plunged the nation into an unprecedented state of suffering. 'Selfish desire means freedom, and selfish interest symbolizes

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democracy. Law-abiding becomes a shame, and disobedience signifies nobility. To cash in on the weaknesses of the youth makes one a teacher, and to propagate irresponsible gibberish turns one into a forward scholar. It is exactly this line of thinking that has destroyed our efforts in suppressing Communism.

"As a revolutionary soldier who has a steadfast purpose and has a sense of a mission, we must particularly raise our vigilance, examine our own thoughts, hold firm our stand and maintain our principles so that we may not be led astray by foolish talk and may not be shaken by the surroundings."

Translated from Chung Yang Jih Pao,
December 27, 1952.

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